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SLACKNESS. *n. f.* [from *slack*.]

1. Looseness; not tightness.
 2. Negligence; inattention; remissness.
- It concerneth the duty of the church by law to provide, that the looseness and slackness of men may not cause the commandments of God to be unexecuted. *Hooker.*

These thy offices,
So rarely kind, are as interpreters
Of my behind-hand slackness. *Shak. Winter's Tale.*
From man's effeminate slackness it begins,
Who should better hold his place
By wisdom, and superior gifts receiv'd. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

3. Want of tendency.
- When they have no disposition to shoot out above their lips, there is a slackness to heal, and a cure is very difficultly effected. *Sharp's Surgery.*

4. Weakness; not force; not intenseness.
- Through the slackness of motion, or long banishment from the air, it might gather some aptness to putrefy. *Brerewood.*

SLAG. *n. f.* The dross or recement of metal.
Not only the calces but the glasses of metal may be of differing colours from the natural colour of the metal, as I have observed about the glass of slag of copper. *Boyle.*

SLAIN. *n. f.* A weaver's reed. *Ainsworth.*

SLAIN. The participle passive of *slay*.

The slain of the Lord shall be many. *Jf. lxvi. 16.*
The king grew vain,
Fought all his battles o'er again;
And thrice he routed all his foes, and thrice he slew the slain. *Dryden.*

To SLAKE. *v. a.* [from *slack*, *Skinner*; from *slack*, *Islandick*, to quench, *Mr. Lye*.]

1. To quench; to extinguish.
- He did always strive
Himself with salses to health for to restore,
And slake the heavenly fire that rag'd evermore. *Fa. Queen.*

If I digg'd up thy forefathers graves,
And hung their rotten coffins up in chains,
It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart. *Shak. H. VI.*

She with her cold hand flakes
His spirits, the sparks of life, and chills his heart. *Crashaw.*

From sulus' head
A lambent flame arose, which gently spread
Around his brows, and on his temples fed:
Amaz'd, with running water we prepare
To quench the sacred fire, and slake his hair. *Dryden.*

The fragrant fruit from bending branches shake,
And with the crystal stream their thirst at pleasure slake. *Blackmore's Creation.*

Coarse are his meals, the fortune of the chace;
Amidst the running stream he flakes his thirst. *Addis. Cat.*

2. It is used of lime, so that it is uncertain whether the original notion of *To slack* or *flake* lime be to powder or quench it.

That which he saw happened to be fresh lime, and gathered before any rain had fallen to flake it. *Woodward.*

To SLAKE. *v. n.* [This is apparently from *slack*.] To grow less tense; to be relaxed.

If she the body's nature did partake,
Her strength would with the body's strength decay;
But when the body's strongest sinews flake,
Then is the soul most active, quick, and gay. *Davies.*

To SLAM. *v. a.* [from *slama*, *Islandick*; *schlagen*, Dutch.] To slaughter; to crush. A word not used but in low conversation.

To SLANDER. *v. a.* [from *slaudrie*, French; *scandalum*, Latin.] To censure falsely; to belie.

Slander Valentine
With falsehood, cowardice, and poor descent. *Shakespeare.*

He hath slandered thy servant unto the king. *2 Sa. xix. 27.*

Give me leave to speak as earnestly in truly commending it, as you have done in untruly and unkindly defacing and slandering it. *Whitgift.*

Thou do'st with lies the throne invade,
By practice harden'd in thy slandering trade;
Obtending heav'n for whate'er ill befall,
And putt'ring under specious names thy gall. *Dryden.*

Of all her dears she never slander'd one,
But cares not if a thousand are undone. *Dryden.*

SLANDER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. False invective.

When slanders do not live in tongues;
When cut-purses come not to throngs. *Shak. K. Lear.*

Since that we hear he is in arms,
We think not so;
Yet charge the consul with our harms,
That let him go:
So in our censure of the state
We fill do wander,
And make the careful magistrate
The mark of slander. *Ben. Johnson's Catiline.*

2. Disreputation; reproach.

Thou slander of thy heavy mother's womb!

Thou loathed issue of thy father's loins. *Shakespeare. R. III.*

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3. Disreputation; ill name.

You shall not find me, daughter,
After the slander of most step-mothers,
Ill-ey'd unto you. *Shakespeare.*

SLANDERER. *n. f.* [from *slander*.] One who belies another; one who lays false imputations on another.

In your servants suffer any offence against yourself rather than against God; endure not that they should be railers or slanderers, tell-tales or fowers of dissension. *Taylor.*

Thou shalt answer for this, thou slanderer. *Dryden.*

SLANDEROUS. *adj.* [from *slander*.]

1. Uttering reproachful falsehoods.

What king so strong
Can tie the gall up in the slanderous tongue? *Shakespeare.*

To me belongs
The care to shun the blast of slanderous tongues:
Let malice, prone the virtuous to defame,
Thus with vile censure taint my spotless name. *Pope.*

2. Containing reproachful falsehoods; calumnious.

I was never able 'till now to choke the mouth of such detractors, with the certain knowledge of their slanderous untruths. *Spenser on Ireland.*

We lay these honours on this man,
To ease ourselves of divers slanderous loads. *Shak. Jul. Cæs.*

As by flattery a man opens his bottom to his mortal enemy, so by detraction and a slanderous misreport he flouts the same to his best friends. *South.*

SLANDEROUSLY. *adv.* [from *slanderous*.] Calumniously; with false reproach.

I may the better satisfy them who object these doubts, and slanderously bark at the courses which are held against that traitorous earl and his adherents. *Spenser on Ireland.*

They did slanderously object,
How that they durst not hazard to present
In person their defences. *Daniel's Civil War.*

SLANG. The preterite of *slang*.

David sang a song, and smote the Philistine. *1 Sa. xvii.*

SLANK. *n. f.* An herb. *Ainsworth.*

SLANT. *adj.* [from *slange*, a serpent, Dutch. *Skinner*.]

SLANTING. *adj.* Oblique; not direct; not perpendicular.

Late the clouds
Justling, or push'd with winds, rude in their flock,
Tine the slant lightning; whose thwart flame driv'n down,
Kindles the gummy bark of fir and pine. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

The fun round the globe describes th' Equator line,
By which wise means he can the whole survey
With a direct or with a slanting ray,
In the succession of a night and day. *Blackmore.*

SLANTLY. *adv.* [from *slant*.] Obliquely; not perpendicularly; slopingly.

Some maketh a hollowness half a foot deep,
With fower sets in it, set slantwise asleep. *Tusser's Husband.*

SLAP. *n. f.* [from *schlap*, German.] A blow. Properly with the hand open, or with something rather broad than sharp.

The laugh, the slap, the jocund curse go round. *Thomson.*

SLAP. *adv.* [from the noun.] With a sudden and violent blow.

Peg's servants complained; and if they offered to come into the warehouse, then trait wret the yard slap over their noddle. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

To SLAP. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To strike with a slap.

Dick, who thus long had passive sat,
Here stroak'd his chin, and cock'd his hat;
Then slap'd his hand upon the board,
And thus the youth put in his word. *Prior.*

SLAPDASH. *interj.* [from *slap* and *dash*.] All at once; as any thing broad falls with a slap into the water, and dashes it about.

A low word.

And yet, slapdash, is all again
In ev'ry finew, nerve, and vein. *Prior.*

To SLASH. *v. a.* [from *slas*, to strike, *Islandick*.]

1. To cut; to cut with long cuts.
2. To lash. *Slash* is improper.

Daniel, a brightly wain, that us'd to slash
The vigorous steeds that drew his lord's calash,
To Peggy's side inclin'd. *King.*

To SLASH. *v. n.* To strike at random with a sword; to lay about him.

The knights with their bright burning blades
Broke their rude troops, and orders did confound,
Hewing and slashing at their idle shades. *Fairy Queen.*

Not that I'd lop the beauties from his book,
Like slashing Bentley with his desp'rate hook. *Pope.*

SLASH. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. Cut; wound.
2. A cut in cloth.

Some few received some cuts and slashes that had drawn blood.

What! this a sleeve?
Here's nip and nip, and cut, and fish and slash. *Shakespeare.*

Like to a censor in a barber's shop.

Disfinguisht

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Disfinguisht slashes deck the great,
As each excels in birth or state:
His oylet-holes are more and ampler;
The king's own body was a sampler. *Prior.*

SLATCH. *n. f.* [A sea term.] The middle part of a rope or cable that hangs down loose. *Halley.*

SLATE. *n. f.* [from *slit*: *slate* is in some counties a crack; or from *eslate*, a tile, French.] A grey fossil stone, easily broken into thin plates, which are used to cover houses, or to write upon.

A square cannot be so truly drawn upon a slate as it is conceived in the mind. *Craw's Cosmol.*

A small piece of a flat slate the ants laid over the hole of their nest, when they forelaw it would rain. *Addis. Spect.*

To SLATE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cover the roof; to tile.

Sonnets and elegies to Chloris,
Would raise a house about two stories;
A lyric ode would slate. *Swift.*

SLATER. *n. f.* [from *slate*.] One who covers with slates or tiles.

SLATERN. *n. f.* [from *slatit*, Swedish.] A woman negligent, not elegant or nice.

Without the raising of which sum,
You dare not be so troublesome
To pinch the slattern black and blue,
For leaving your work to do. *Hadibras.*

We may always observe, that a gossip in politics is a slattern in her family. *Addis. Spect.*

The fallow skin is for the swarthy put,
And love can make it slattern of a slut.
Beneath the lamp her tawdry ribbons glare,
The new-scour'd mantleau and the slattern air. *Gay.*

SLATRY. *adj.* [from *slate*.] Having the nature of slate.

All the stone that is slaty, with a texture long, and parallel to the site of the stratum, will split only lengthways, or horizontally; and, if placed in any other position, 'tis apt to give way, start, and burst, when any considerable weight is laid upon it. *Woodward on Fossils.*

SLAVE. *n. f.* [from *esclave*, French.] It is said to have its original from the *Slavi*, or *Scythians*, subdued and sold by the *Venetians*. One mancipiated to a master; not a freeman; a dependant.

The banish'd Kent, who in disguise
Follow'd his enemy king, and did him service
Improper for a slave. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*

Thou elvish mark, abortive, rooting hog!
Thou that wast feed'd in thy nativity
The slave of nature, and the son of hell. *Shakespeare. R. III.*

Of guests he makes them slaves
Inhospitably. *Milton.*

Slaves to our passions we become, and then
It grows impossible to govern men. *Waller.*

The condition of servants was different from what it is now, they being generally slaves, and such as were bought and sold for money. *South.*

Perspective a painter must not want; yet without subjecting ourselves to wholly to it, as to become slaves of it. *Dryden.*

To-morrow, should we thus express our friendship,
Each might receive a slave into his arms:
This sun perhaps, this morning sun's the last;
That e'er shall rise on Roman liberty. *Addis. Spect.*

To SLAVE. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To drudge; to toil; to toil.

Had women been the makers of our laws,
The men should slave at cards from morn to night. *Swift.*

SLAVER. *n. f.* [from *salva*, Latin; *slaver*, *Islandick*.] Spiteful running from the mouth; drive.

Mathiolus hath a passage, that a toad communicates its venom not only by urine, but by the humidity and slave of its mouth, which will not consist with truth. *Brown.*

Of all mad creatures, if the lean'd are right,
It is the slave kills, and not the bite. *Pope.*

To SLAVER. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To be smeared with spittle.

Should I
Slaver with lips, as common as the stairs
That mount the capitol; join gripes with hands
Made hard with hourly falsehood as with labour. *Shakespeare.*

Miso came with frowning eyes to deliver a slaving good-morrow to the two ladies.

Why must he sputter, spawl, and slaver it,
In vain, against the people's fav'rite? *Sidney.*

To SLAVER. *v. a.* To smear with spittle.

Twitch'd by the slave he mouths it more and more,
'Till with white froth his gown is slaver'd o'er. *Dryden.*

SLAVERER. *n. f.* [from *slaver*, Dutch; from *slaver*.] One who cannot hold his spittle; a driveller; an idiot.

SLAVERY. *n. f.* [from *slave*.] Servitude; the condition of a slave; the offices of a slave.

If my dissentings were out of error, weakness, or obduracy in me, yet no man can think it other than the badge and

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medied of slavery, by savage rudeness and importunate obtrusions of violence to have the mist of his error dispelled. *King Charles.*

SLAUGHTER. *n. f.* [from *slaugte*, Saxon, from *slagan*, to strike or kill.] Massacre; destruction by the sword.

Sinful Macduff,
They were all struck for thee!
Not for their own demerits, but for mine;
Fell slaughter on their souls. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

On each hand slaughter and gigantic deeds. *Milton.*

The pair you see,
Now friends below, in close embraces join;
But when they leave the shady realms of night,
With mortal heat each other shall pursue:
What wars, what wounds, what slaughter shall ensue? *Dryden.*

To SLAUGHTER. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To massacre; to slay; to kill with the sword.

Your cattle is surpriz'd, your wife and babes
Savagely slaughter'd. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

SLAUGHTERHOUSE. *n. f.* [from *slaughter* and *house*.] House in which beasts are killed for the butcher.

Away with me, all you whose souls abhor
Th' uncleanly favour of a slaughterhouse;
For I am fill'd with the smell of sin. *Shakespeare.*

SLAUGHTERMAN. *n. f.* [from *slaughter* and *man*.] One employed in killing.

The mad mothers with their howls confus'd
Do break the clouds; as did the wives of Jewry,
At Herod's bloody hunting slaughtermen. *Shak. Hen. V.*

Ten chas'd by one,
Are now each one the slaughterman of twenty. *Shakespeare.*

See, thou fight'st against thy countrymen;
And join't with them, will be thy slaughtermen. *Shak. H. VI.*

SLAUGHTEROUS. *adj.* [from *slaughter*.] Destructive; murderous.

I have sapt full with horrors:
Direness familiar to my slaughterous thoughts
Cannot once start me. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

SLAUGHTER. *adj.* [from *slawe*.] Servile; mean; base; dependant.

A thing
More slavish did I ne'er, than answering *Shakespeare. Cymbeline.*

A slave without a knock.
You have among you many a purchas'd slave,
Which, like your asses, and your dogs and mules,
You use in abject and in slavish part,
Because you bought them. *Shak. Merchant of Venice.*

I believe
That he, the supreme God, 't whom all things ill
Are but as slavish officers of vengeance,
Would send a glistering guardian, if need were,
To keep my life and honour unassail'd. *Milton.*

Those are the labour'd births of slavish brains;
Not the effect of poetry, but pains. *Denham.*

Slavish bards our mutual loves rehearse
In lying strains and ignominious verse. *Prior.*

SLAVISHLY. *adv.* [from *slavish*.] Servilely; meanly.

SLAVISHNESS. *n. f.* [from *slavish*.] Servility; meanness.

To SLAY. *v. a.* preter. *slaw*; part. pass. *slain*. [from *slagan*, Gothic; *plean*, Sax. *slachten*, Dutch; to strike.] To kill; to butcher; to put to death.

Her father's brother
Would be her lord, or shall I say her uncle?
Or he that slew her brothers and her uncle? *Shak. R. III.*

If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine;
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still. *Shakespeare.*

The deadly-handed Clifford slew my freed. *Shak. H. VI.*

I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God. *Rev. vi. 2.*

Thus there was killing of young and old, and slaying of virgins and infants. *2 Mac. v. 13.*

Slay and make ready. *Gen. xliii. 16.*

Wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one. *Job v. 2.*

They slew ten thousand men.
Of Trojan chiefs he view'd a numerous train;
All much lamented, all in battle slain. *Dryden's Zen.*

By blood and battles must his pow'r maintain,
And slay the monarchs, ere he rule the plain. *Prior.*

SLAYER. *n. f.* [from *slay*.] Killer; murderer; destroyer.

Witness the guiltless blood pour'd oft on ground;
The crowned often slain, the slayer crown'd. *Fairy Queen.*

They slew those that were slayers of their countrymen. *Abb.*

The slayer of himself yet saw I there;
The gore congeal'd was clotted in his hair:
With eyes half clos'd and gaping mouth he lay;
And grim as when he breath'd his fallen soul away. *Dryden.*

SLEAVE. *n. f.* [Of this word I know not well the meaning: *slave* silk is explained by *Gauldan*, *faccus sericus*, a lock of silk; and the women still say *slave* the silk, for *unwilt* it. *Ainsworth*